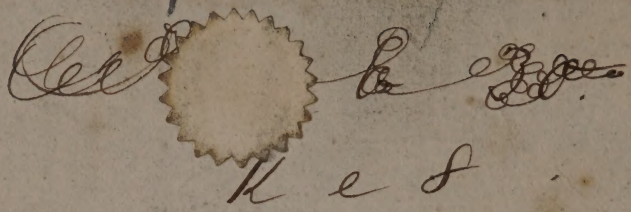
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FIELD, H.

MEMOIRS,

&c.

MEMOIRS,

HISTORICAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE,

OF THE

BOTANICK GARDEN

AT

CHELSEA;

BELONGING TO THE

Society of Apothecaries

OF

LONDON.

LONDON BOTANICAL SOCIETY

London:

PRINTED BY R. GILBERT,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE, CLERKENWELL.

1820.

11

TO THE

MASTER, WARDENS, ASSISTANTS,

AND

MEMBERS

OF THE

Society of Apothecaries of London,

THESE

MEMOIRS OF AN ESTABLISHMENT

HIGHLY HONOURABLE,

AS WELL TO THEIR

PREDECESSORS, AS TO THEMSELVES,

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THEIR OBLIGED HUMBLE SERVANT,

HENRY FIELD.

At a Special Court of Assistants of the SOCIETY *of* APOTHECARIES, *held at their Hall on* FRIDAY *the* 28th JULY, 1820,

MR. FIELD, a Member of this Court, presented to the Court an Historical Account of the Society's Garden at Chelsea, compiled by himself:

RESOLVED,

THAT the Thanks of this Court be given to Mr. FIELD for his Donation, and that the said Account be printed to the number of One Thousand copies, and that a copy be presented to each Member of the Society.

EDMUND BACOT,
CLERK.

MEMOIRS

OF THE

BOTANICK GARDEN AT CHELSEA.

Of the various and important events which have taken place, during the two centuries that have elapsed since the Society of Apothecaries became a separate and independent Corporation, there is no one which reflects greater honour upon it as a Society, and more forcibly evinces the zeal, energy, and disinterestedness of its early members in the promotion of science, than the establishment of a Botanick Garden at Chelsea.

Were not the fact indisputable, it would scarcely be credited by posterity, that this expensive design was commenced at a time when the Society could not with

propriety be said to have emerged from its state of infancy; when it was totally destitute of any disposable funds, which could be employed for that purpose; and at a period when their Hall had been recently destroyed by the memorable fire of London. The early re-edification of their Hall, so necessary for the conduct of their general affairs, was indispensable, and must have been a primary object with the members. Their private pecuniary resources would have been, according to every rational conjecture, too much exhausted by this necessary work, to enable them to enter upon a new undertaking, whose principal design was honourable reputation, without any prospect of worldly advantage.

The earliest record which we possess of a Botanick Garden in England, was that of the truly celebrated John Gerarde, the father of English herbalism. He flourished in the latter end of the 16th, and in the beginning of the 17th Century. His garden was attached to his house in

Holborn, and he published a catalogue of it in the years 1596 and 1599.

The next, in order of time, was that of a man equally celebrated, though in a somewhat different way, the elder Tradescant, who about the year 1630, established at South Lambeth, a garden for the culture of exotic plants, which was carried on with great success for many years by him, and his son. Tradescant was likewise a great collector of subjects in the various branches of natural history; and his collection, which was considered very valuable in its day, went to Mr. Elias Ashmole, by whom it was, in 1677, presented to the University of Oxford.

Mr. William Watson, a member of this Society, (afterwards Sir William Watson, Knt. M. D.) visited this garden at South Lambeth in 1749. He informs us, that Mr. Tradescant's garden had been for many years totally neglected, and the house belonging to it empty and ruinous: and though the garden was quite covered with weeds, there were to be seen among

them manifest footsteps of its founder. The names of a few plants he enumerates, and he speaks of two arbutus's of a very large size, and of a rhamnus catharticus, about twenty feet in height, and nearly a foot in diameter, which still remained there.

The next garden in succession is, most probably, that of the Society of Apothecaries, which in a few years arrived at a very honourable degree of eminence; and, what is still more important, has continued to the present time, and now flourishes with increasing energy and success; while these its predecessors are so totally annihilated, that their situations are scarcely to be discovered, and their existence is known only from the records of the times.

Though collections of exotic plants in the vicinity of London, both belonging to private gentlemen, and to scientific nurserymen, are numerous and extensive, yet this Society may still claim the distinguished honour of possessing the only depository of plants, exotic and indige-

nous, in the vicinity of this great Metropolis, belonging to a public body.

Private gardens, depending generally on the life or fortune of the proprietor, are of a nature too evanescent, to allow many of the natives of foreign climes, to arrive at that state of perfection and hardiness, which length of time only can accomplish in this variable climate. A public garden, therefore, the property of a Corporation, the nature of which secures permanence, offers the best prospect of bringing to maturity these delicate productions of warmer countries, and of discovering and ascertaining how far they may be naturalized with us. It is well known that this has, in many instances, been already accomplished; and will, doubtless, be attained in many more productions of the vegetable kingdom from different quarters of the globe, where it is now, perhaps, least expected.

The Society of Apothecaries have already supported their garden during a century and a half, and from the increas-

ing respectability and science of its members, especially of those to whom its government is committed, there can be no doubt it will be continued, Deo adjuvante, with augmented zeal, success, and utility, even to the latest posterity.

It is much to be lamented that the early history of this Botanick Garden is involved in very great obscurity. The materials for forming it are extremely defective. It is by no means probable that such a design could have been carried into effect without much previous deliberation, without due investigation by the appointment of committees, and such other methods of inquiry as are usually
1673. adopted upon occasions of similar importance; but on this the records of the Society are totally silent.

From a recital contained in the release of the ground, upon which this garden was laid out, granted many years after this period by Sir Hans Sloane, it appears that Charles Cheyne, Esq. (afterwards Lord Cheyne) by his indenture of lease, bearing

date the 29th of August 1673, did demise 1673.
and grant unto the Master, Wardens, and
Society of the art and mystery of Apothe-
caries of the City of London, their succes-
sors and assigns, the piece and parcel of
ground and premises therein mentioned,
to hold from Michaelmas then next ensu-
ing, unto the full end and term of sixty-
one years, at the yearly rent of 5*l.*

It is singular, that the first mention made
of the garden at Chelsea, in the minute
books of the Society, should be in a way
purely incidental. It is there stated (21st
June) that several members proposed to 1674.
build a wall round Chelsea garden at their
own expence, with the assistance of such
subscriptions, as they might be able to
procure; provided the Court of Assistants
would agree to pay 2*l.* every year for ever
to each of the six Herbarizings, which
proposal was accepted. The proprietors
of the Laboratory Stock gave 50*l.* towards
the building of this wall, on the condition
that they were to be allowed a piece of
ground in the garden for herbs.

1674. It is surely right that the names of these liberal minded men be recorded, though posterity can know little more of them. They were as follow: Messrs. Sykes, Gardner, Rouse, Stratton, Reeves, Power, Warner, Watts, Ja. Rand, Leigh, Gaunt, Hollingworth, Lowry, and Hull.

Nothing more occurs relative to the garden during the two succeeding years; when a circumstance is mentioned, the nature of which is very difficult to under-
1676. stand. In the month of June of this year, it was stated, that the Court of Assistants agreed to take Mrs. Gape's lease of the garden at Westminster off her hands, for the remaining two years for the sum of 16*l.* the rent being 2*l.* per annum; with the liberty of removing the plants to Chelsea garden.

Whether the Society were in possession of a Garden at Westminster for the cultivation of exotic plants, prior to that of Chelsea; or whether it was a piece of ground occupied for the sole purpose of

growing medicinal herbs for the use of 1676.
their Laboratory, which had been formed only a few years before; it is impossible at this distance of time to ascertain. The condition above mentioned, on which the proprietors of the Laboratory Stock contributed to the erection of the garden-wall, seems to countenance the latter opinion. The minute book of that Stock affords no information upon the subject.

That there was a Botanick Garden at Westminster many years prior to this time, is made quite certain from a late publication of the "Memoirs of the Life and Writings of John Evelyn, Esq;" the celebrated author of the Sylva, and other works. In his Diary is the following anecdote; "1658 June 10th I went to see the medical garden at Westminster, well stored with plants under Morgan, a skilful Botanist." It is extremely probable that this is the garden here alluded to, and that the Society purchased the lease in order to obtain possession of the plants, which it then contained; as it

1676. would certainly be a valuable acquisition to their new establishment at Chelsea.

The name of the first gardener employed by the Society, appears to have been Piggott, of whom however nothing more is known, but that he was discharged on
1677. the 16th of December; and that Richard Pratt was chosen in his room, on the 22nd of January following, who was to be allowed lodging and a salary of 30*l.* per
1678. annum. As this must have been a handsome remuneration in those days, he was probably a man of considerable horticultural merit. In the autumn of this year directions were given, that the garden be planted with the best fruit trees, and it is likewise stated that a good crop of herbs for the use of the Laboratory was furnished from the garden.

The management of this establishment
1679. began now to assume a more systematic form, a Committee being appointed for that purpose, consisting of twenty-one Assistants, thirty Liverymen, and twenty

of the Yeomanry. It is difficult to con- 1679.
ceive what could have been the motive for appointing so great a number of persons as are here mentioned, to conduct such a concern. For it is sufficiently obvious, that a numerous Committee is much more calculated to obstruct, than to facilitate the detail of business. In the month of January of this year, Mr. John Watts, 1680.
a member of the Society, and one whose name has been mentioned as a contributor to the erection of the wall, was appointed to have the care and management of the garden at 50*l.* per annum, besides the allowance of one or two Labourers; and in the following year, a green-house or stove was erected in the garden at an estimated expense of 138*l.* It has been supposed, that this is the same building which has been within these few years taken away. It was situate in the lower part of the ground, not far distant from the river. If, however, it was not the same building, there is great reason to believe, that it was an erection on the same site.

In the autumn of this year, Dr. Herman 1682.

1682. of Leyden, visited Chelsea garden, and proposed an exchange of plants, which proposal Mr. Watts went to Holland to
1683. carry into effect. About this time four cedar trees were planted in the garden near the river, being at the time of planting three feet high. Two of them remain at this day; the others were cut down, after continuing about a century, in consequence of their decayed state.

The expense of the garden, which is stated to have been 130*l.* annually, exclusive of the gardener's salary of 50*l.* began now to be a matter of serious con-
1685. sideration; in order to reduce this expense, fresh proposals were made to Mr. Watts, the result of which was, that he entered into articles of agreement (now in existence) with the Society; in which he covenants to take upon himself the care, culture, and management of the garden, for the term of seven years from Michaelmas 1685, to repair and keep in repair the stove, green-house, and other buildings and utensils contained in it, and to make a catalogue of all the plants; for which he was

to be allowed by the Society the annual sum of 100*l.* besides such expences as he might incur in cultivating that part of the ground allotted to the use of the Laboratory Stock; with liberty to dispose of the fruit and supernumerary plants, for his own benefit. 1685.

An order was made, that the Master, Wardens, and Assistants should each be allowed to have a key of the garden, at his own expence.

It is truly gratifying to observe the degree of importance which this garden had attained, in little more than ten years from its establishment, and this in the judgment of a man well skilled himself in Botanical knowledge, Mr. Evelyn, who, in another part of the above-mentioned Diary, writes thus, "1685 August 7th I went to see Mr. Watts, keeper of the Apothecaries garden of simples at Chelsea, where there is a collection of innumerable varieties of that sort: particularly, besides many rare annuals, the tree bearing jesuit's bark, which had done such wonders in

1685. quartan agues. What was very ingenious was the subterraneous heat, conveyed by a stove under the conservatory, all vaulted with brick, so as he has the doores and windowes open in the hardest frosts, secluding only the snow."

1691. In a view of the gardens near London, taken in December of this year, communicated to the Society of Antiquarians by the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, Vice President, from an original MS. in his possession; and published in the 12th volume of their Archælogia, this garden is thus described—" Chelsea physick garden has great variety of plants both in and out of greenhouses: their perennial green hedges, and rows of different coloured herbs are very pretty; and so are the banks set with shades of herbs in the Irish stitch-way; but many plants in the garden were not in so good order as might be expected, and as would have been answerable to other things in it. After I had been there, I learned that Mr. Watts, the keeper of it, was blamed for his neglect, and that he would be removed.

Of the interval from 1685 to the pre- 1693.
sent time we have no information whatever, but Mr. Watts's lease being now expired, the question was in the summer of this year agitated in the Court of Assistants; whether the Society should continue to support the garden, or not. It must be presumed that some material difficulty, probably as to the expected charges of it, presented itself to several of the Members. The good sense, however, of the major part of the Assistants prevailed, and the continuation of the garden was determined upon, when Mr. Samuel Doody undertook the care and expence of it at 100*l.* per annum. This arrangement appears to have been of very short dura- 1695.
tion, for about two years after, the state of the garden being taken into consideration, Mr. Doody was informed that the Court had considered his proposals, and preferred giving him 100*l.* in lieu of his term, and of the agreement formerly made, than to continue the same; but that they would grant a lease to him, or to any other Members who might desire it, for a term of 21 years. In consequence of this de-

1695. termination, a lease of the garden for that term is said to have been granted to Messrs. Doody, Petiver, Dare, and Bromwich, and at the same time it was directed, that a pair of stairs should be made for them; the intention of which, it may be supposed, was to facilitate communication with the river. This lease is not to be found among the archives of the Society; it is probable, therefore, from this circumstance, and also from what followed in succeeding and subsequent years, that it never took effect.

1696. The minute book of the Court of Assistants informs us, that a treaty was now opened with Lord Cheyne relative to the garden. As he had only a life interest in it, this treaty was not then pursued; but
1697. in the following year it must have been renewed, for the Court agreed to accept Lord Cheyne's offer to make their present term in the garden sixty years for the sum of 75*l.* There were then about thirty-eight years unexpired; this must therefore have been intended as an addition of twenty two years. Notwithstanding the

acceptance of this proposal by the Court as above stated, it is extremely doubtful whether such an agreement ever took place. The original lease from Mr. Cheyne is not to be found, nor can any other writing upon the subject be discovered; therefore whether this agreement was carried into effect by indorsement, or by a separate deed, cannot now be known. But what seems decisive upon the subject is, that Sir Hans Sloane's conveyance of the garden, many years after, takes no notice of this extension of the lease, though the original lease of sixty one years is distinctly recited. Had such an extension of the term then existed, it would have been too important to be passed over in silence. 1697.

About this time a new proposal relating to the garden was presented by Mr. Doody, and referred to a committee, who reported that they approved the same, and agreed with him to carry it into effect. Of the nature of this proposal nothing can be known.

A long period of time again elapses 1706.

1706. without any intimation of the passing events respecting the garden, which must have continued under the principal management of Mr. Doody until his death. This event took place some time in the present year. It may be presumed that his good conduct in the care of the garden during all this time, required no particular interference of the Society. As Mr. Doody was a man of considerable eminence as a Botanist, a few biographical notices of him cannot be unacceptable.

He was a native of Staffordshire, but had settled in London as an Apothecary, and there is reason to believe he acquired considerable practice. His botanical studies must have been much confined to the vicinity of the metropolis, but his diligence in them was unexampled, particularly in the investigation of those imperfect plants, now called Cryptogamous; in which his knowledge was superior to any other person of his day.

The early editions of Ray's Synopsis bear ample testimony to his labours. In

the preface to that work (2d. Edit.) Mr. Ray thus notices him, 1706.

" Samuel Doody, Pharmacopœius Londinensis, qui et opus ipsum plurimis speciebus ditavit; et alias, etiam tum species, tum observationes appendici reservavit. Non minus perspicax in plantis discernendis, quam industrius in indagandis; summis in hac Scientia viris æqui parandus." M. Jussieu calls him " Inter Pharmacopœios Londinenses, sui temporis, Coryphæus." In 1695 he became a fellow of the Royal Society. There is a Case of Hydrops Pectoris, written by him, in their Transactions for 1697, and some MSS. of his, on Medical and Botanical subjects, are said to be preserved in the British Museum.

In consequence of Mr. Doody's death, Messrs. Wyche, Andrews and Petiver, were appointed to inspect the garden, and a committee at the same time chosen to take into consideration the future disposal of it. This committee made their report in the month of March, but it related solely to 1707.

1707. their treaty with Lord Cheyne, who it must be presumed had at this time an estate of inheritance in the garden, for he offered to dispose of it to the Society for 400*l.* which being eighty years purchase of the ground-rent, they refused to take it upon those terms. The committee were then desired to consider whether it would be best to part with the garden. In the month of June the committee gave their opinion to the Court of Assistants that it was not best to part with it, and it was ordered that the wharfing of it towards the river be carried into effect, as soon as it could conveniently be done. Notwithstanding this determination to maintain the garden, the expense of it must have been found too great for the finances of the Society to support in their corporate capacity, for in the following January, a Common Hall of the Members was held for the purpose of proposing a subscription for the garden, which was acceded to, and ninety persons gave in their names as subscribers. A committee of the Court was appointed to meet the subscribers, and consult upon terms; in consequence

of which an agreement was entered into, and in the spring of this year a lease was granted to the Subscribers, to which the common seal was affixed. The following are the conditions of this lease. It was made between the Society on the one part, and the subjoined Members on the other part, namely, 1708.

Robert Gower,	John Channing,
George Dare,	John Perkins,
Joseph Nicholson,	Thomas Robinson,
Richard Springate,	Robert Sheffield,
Samuel Ryley,	James Petiver,
Joseph Miller,	Zachary Allen,
Robert Basket,	Isaac Garnier, Jun.
Benjamin Bouchier,	Isaac Rand,
Henry Sherbell,	Derrick Barnevelt,
Richard Chapman,	John Cox.

on behalf of themselves, and divers other Members of the Society ; who had agreed to subscribe for seven years from Michaelmas 1707, so much as to make up the yearly sum of 100*l.* and upwards, such money to be employed in maintaining and improving the physick garden, for the benefit of the Society ; and the abovementioned subscribing Members were

1708. constituted trustees for carrying the same into effect. The Society therefore granted to them a lease for seven years at an annual rent of 5*l.* upon condition that they repair the buildings, and maintain, cultivate and support the garden, in the best possible manner; reserving to the Master, Wardens and Assistants, and also to every Member of the Society, who may be, or shall become subscribers to the garden, full liberty of walking therein, either for recreation or instruction. Provision is also made for an annual audit by the subscribers, of the accounts of the trustees, to secure a faithful application of the monies subscribed.

1713. The plan of exonerating the Society from the charge of the garden, by placing it in the hands of individual Members, does not appear to have answered any very valuable purpose; which indeed might have been expected. In the month of August of this year, the trustees for the management of the garden, reported to the Court of Assistants, that from the defect in the payment of subscriptions, and

the great expense of supporting the gar- 1713.
den, they should not be able to continue the same beyond their present term. The court, considering that it would be for the honour of the Society, and the benefit of the younger Members, that it should be carried on, ordered the following payments to be applied to the support of it; namely, that

	£	s.	d.
Every Member should pay annually	0	2	0
A Master on binding an Apprentice	0	5	0
An Apprentice at the time of binding	0	5	0
One Shilling in the Pound of the Laboratory Dividend.			
Every Member dining at the private Herbarizing	0	1	0
Every fine payable to the Corporation to be Guineas instead of Pounds. The Total of these, was estimated at 90*l.* per Annum.			

This year is memorable in the annals 1714.
of the garden, for affording the first intimation of a communication on its affairs with a gentleman, whose name and memory must always be held in high estimation by every lover of Botanical knowledge, and by every friend to the scientific

1714. designs of the Society of Apothecaries. On the 1st of July a proposition was submitted to the court by the garden committee, of waiting on Dr. Sloane, (who had purchased the manor of Chelsea, of William Lord Cheyne in the year 1712,) and desiring his sentiments, as to a future interest in the garden. The immediate result of this conference does not appear, but it probably opened the way to that amicable and liberal settlement between them, which took place a few years after.

The lease of the garden, granted in 1708, being now nearly expiring, a committee was appointed in October to examine into its state, and to consider how it may be now best managed. This committee appears to have occupied much time in deliberation, which the numerous difficulties to be encountered might render necessary. It was not until the following September, that an order of the Court of Assistants determined that the garden should be kept up, for the present, by the Corporation.

About this time died Mr. James Peti- 1718.
ver, a name worthy of honourable mention in the history of this garden. The exact time of his birth is unknown. He was apprenticed to Mr. Feltham, apothecary to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. After which he settled in business in Aldersgate-street, where he continued the remainder of his life. He was in great practice, and became apothecary to the Charter-house. He accumulated so large a collection of natural history, that some time before his death, Sir Hans Sloane is said to have offered him 4000*l.* for it. After his death Sir Hans purchased it, and it came eventually to the British Museum. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and assisted the great Mr. Ray in arranging the second volume of his history of plants, who gives this brief, but expressive and affectionate testimony to his merits. "Jacobus Petiver, non postremæ notæ botanicus, mei amicissimus."

He officiated as demonstrator of plants to the Society as early as the year 1709, but how long prior to that period cannot

1718. now be ascertained. He probably resigned it to, or, at least, was assisted in that office by Mr. Rand. He died on the twentieth of April 1718, Sir Hans Sloane and other eminent men, in token of their esteem, attending his funeral as pall-bearers.

The new ordinances of the Corporation containing some provision for the support of the garden, the master, wardens, and three other members were deputed to wait on Sir Hans Sloane, to acquaint him therewith. It must have been upon this occasion, that the following statement, copied from a written paper among the Sloane MSS. in the British Museum, was sent to Sir Hans Sloane, probably for his approbation. As it differs materially from the estimate before mentioned, and is several years subsequent to it in date, it will be important to insert it. It is entitled, " a note of paragraphs forty-six and forty-seven, with a calculation of the produce, communibus annis."

1718.

To apply the following Fines to maintain the Garden at Chelsea, and the private Herbarizings.

	PRODUCE. £	*s.*	*d.*
5*s.* on taking an Apprentice 7*s.* 6*d.* on becoming an Apprentice	30	0	0
10*s.* on being made free	8	0	0
20*s.* on Admission as Assistant and Liveryman 40*s.* on a Foreigner admitted by Redemption	20	0	0
A moiety of Quarterage from Members....	35	0	0
1*s.* in the Pound of Laboratory Dividends, but this not to exceed 20*l.* in the whole	15	0	0
Rent from Tallow-chandlers' Company for Barge-house, from Mr. Abbot, painter, Chelsea	4	10	0
	£112	10	0

This interview with Sir Hans Sloane appears to have been attended with the best effects. When men of candour and public spirit meet together to promote designs of science, and general utility, those difficulties and obstacles, which readily present themselves to worldly-minded characters, soon vanish before them, and are never allowed permanently to obstruct

1718. the glorious objects of their pursuit. Such was the case here, and within the short space of a few weeks, the Court of Assistants were informed, that Sir Hans Sloane was ready to settle the garden upon the Society on the terms proposed.

About this time it was ordered that a ticket of admission into the garden be given to every proprietor of the Laboratory Stock in consideration of their contributing 15*l.* per annum towards the expence of it. This sum of 15*l.* corresponding with the statement given in the Sloane MS. is an evidence of its correctness.

1722. The deed of conveyance of the garden at Chelsea from Sir Hans Sloane was laid before a Court of Assistants on the 8th February 172$\frac{1}{2}$, approved by them, and ordered to be sealed.

The most important covenants contained in this conveyance are the following, namely,

The release is dated on the 20th of February $172\frac{1}{2}$ and is made between the Honourable Sir Hans Sloane Baronet, President of the Royal College of Physicians on the one part, and the Master, Wardens and Society of the art and mystery of Apothecaries of the city of London, on the other part. It recites the original lease from Lord Cheyne, and also the great expence which the Society had incurred, in furnishing and carrying on the garden, as a physick garden, ever since that lease was granted. It states that the Fee and Inheritance of the ground and premises were then vested in Sir Hans Sloane and his heirs. It further declares, that to the end the said garden may at all times hereafter be continued as a physick garden, and for the better encouraging and enabling the said Society to support the charge thereof, for the manifestation of the power, wisdom, and glory of God in the works of the creation, and that their Apprentices and others may better distinguish good and useful plants, from those that bear resemblance to them, and yet are hurtful, and other the like 1722.

1722. good purposes; the said Sir Hans Sloane grants, releases and confirms unto the said Master, Wardens and Society, and their successors, all that piece or parcel of arable and pasture ground, situate at Chelsea in the county of Middlesex, at that time in their possession, containing three acres, one rood, and thirty-five perches, with the green-house, stoves, barge-houses, and other erections thereon, to have and to hold the same for ever, paying to Sir Hans Sloane, his Heirs and Assigns, the yearly rent of 5l. and rendering yearly to the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London, fifty specimens of distinct plants, well dried and preserved, which grew in their garden the same year, with their names or reputed names; and those presented in each year to be specifically different from every former year until the number of two thousand shall have been delivered. It is further provided, that if these conditions be not fulfilled, or if the Society shall at any time convert the garden into buildings for habitations, or to any other uses, save such as are necessary for a phy-

sick garden, for the culture, planting and 1722
preserving of trees, plants, and flowers, and such like purposes; then it shall be lawful for Sir Hans Sloane, his heirs and assigns, to enter upon the premises, and to hold the same for the use and benefit, and in trust for the said President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society, subject to the same rent, and to the delivery of speciments of plants, as above mentioned to the President of the College or Commonalty or Faculty of Physick in London; and in case the Royal Society shall refuse to comply with these conditions then in trust for the President and College of Physicians of London, subject to the same conditions as the Society of Apothecaries were originally charged with.

Power is also reserved for the President, or Vice President of the Royal Society, and for the President, or Vice President of the Royal College of Physicians, once or oftener in every year, to visit the said garden, and examine if the conditions above specified are duly observed and complied with.

1722. In the spring of this year, a committee consisting of the Master, Wardens, and nine other members of the Court of Assistants, who had been appointed for the purpose of putting the garden into order, and taking upon them the management of it, reported to the Court their opinion, that the present gardener should be discharged, and upon their recommendation Mr. Philip Miller was appointed in his room. The name of the person now discharged is not mentioned, but their choice of a successor was peculiarly happy, and reflects great credit upon the discernment of the committee. The biographers of this great man, Philip Miller, say that he succeeded his father in this office. What their authority for this assertion is, does not appear. The records of this Society are silent upon the subject; it is, therefore, not improbably, a mistake.

Regulations for conducting the affairs of the garden were drawn up by this committee, and approved by the Court on the 21st of August. These regulations are entered at length in the minute book of

the garden Committee, dated the 26th October 1770. 1722.

In the month of August of this year, the first presentation was made of fifty plants to the Royal Society, agreeably to one of the covenants contained in Sir Hans Sloane's deed of conveyance.

The Society having now obtained complete possession of, and a permanent interest in the garden, very properly turned their thoughts to its state and condition, which it may readily be supposed, must have been, both as to repair and cultivation, in a very dilapidated state. It had been for many years prior to this in the hands, and under the management of private individuals, who could not be expected to expend more upon it than was absolutely necessary; and when the Society again resumed the conduct of it, the uncertainty of their tenure at that time, would have deterred them from any material expenditure.

To facilitate means of repairing the gar-

1723. den and putting it in order, recourse was again had to a common hall, or meeting of the members at large. This was held on the 27th of June, when it was agreed that every Freeman should pay 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter, 2*s.* of which was to be applied to the use of the garden; this payment being afterwards thought too large, it was by a subsequent Common Hall, (16th January, 172$\frac{3}{4}$) reduced to 6*s.* per annum; and in aid of it 40*l.* was to be allowed annually by the Society from their Corporate funds. Soon after this the Royal College of Physicians very liberally presented the Society with 100*l.* for the use of the garden. Though the amount of the sums raised by these means could not be very considerable as an immediate supply, yet it seems to have answered the desired purpose, as we meet with no complaint of pecuniarydifficulties for some years after.

1724. The garden Committee recommending that some person should be appointed in the character of Præfectus Horti, or director of the garden, to visit it often, and to take the superintending care and

inspection of it, Mr. Isaac Rand was ap- 1724.
pointed for that purpose; a man eminently capable, and who had for several years been a very zealous promoter of Botany. By way of recompense he was to be admitted a member of the Court of Assistants without a fine, to be excused from all other offices, and to have a salary of 50*l.* As he was at the same time demonstrator of plants, this salary it may be presumed, included the income derived from both offices: to this was afterwards added 8*l.* per annum, being the interest of a Legacy of 200*l.* bequeathed by Mr. John Meres, clerk to the Society, for the benefit of the demonstrator for the time being. He was to attend in the garden during the six summer months, at least twice in each month, to demonstrate the plants to such as should then attend, and to execute such other matters as were by former orders enjoined.

From a report of the garden Committee, 1727.
it appears that the whole expence of the garden for the current year was 172*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

1727. Directions had been given so far back as the year 1707 for carrying into effect the wharfing of the garden towards the river. Either this was not done at that time, or executed so imperfectly as to have fal-
1728. len into decay; for we find an order now given that a wharf should be built along the river before Chelsea garden; and that 1000*l.* be borrowed for that purpose on the Society's Bonds, from such of the members as might be willing to contribute thereto.

1729. Mr. Isaac Rand laid before the Court of Assistants his "Index Officinalis Horti Chelseiani;" when one thousand copies were ordered to be printed at the expense of the Society. This was a catalogue of that part of the garden which was allotted to the culture of the medicinal plants, shrubs and trees, contained in the Pharmacopœia of the College of Physicians; and was designed for the use of those Apprentices, who attended the Botanical Lectures at the garden.

1732. Among the acting members of the

committee for conducting the affairs of the garden, occurs the name of James Sherard, a Botanist of considerable eminence, who withdrew from the Society about this time, in consequence of having obtained a diploma, and practising as a Physician. He was the son of George Sherard (or Sherwood) of Bushby in the county of Leicester, and was probably born about the year 1666, as it appears from the court books of the Society, that he was bound apprentice to Mr. Charles Watts, on the 7th February 168½ Mr. Watts, though in practice as an Apothecary, had been about a year before appointed to the care and management of the Garden at Chelsea, which circumstance must have given his Apprentice great opportunity of cultivating a taste for botanical pursuits, and, no doubt, laid the foundation of his future excellence. Mr. Sherard practised as an Apothecary in London, by which he acquired sufficient wealth to enable him to keep a country house at Eltham; where he had a garden, rich in exotic plants. Though he did not appear as an Author himself, he gave his liberal assist- 1732.

1732. ance towards the diffusion of knowledge by aiding the efforts of others; particularly of Catesby, who by his pecuniary and scientifick help, brought out his natural history of Carolina; though neither this publication, nor the Hortus Elthamensis of Dillenius, appeared until after the death of Sherard, which took place at Eltham, (August 12th 1735) where he was buried.

He was a younger brother of the celebrated William Sherard LL.D. who was likewise an eminent Botanist, and to whose liberality the university of Oxford is indebted for the endowment of its Botanical Professorship and for other valuable bequests.

The name of James Sherard often occurs in the Synopsis of Ray; and in the preface to the third edition of that work, he gives this eulogy of him in conjunction with another Botanical Friend. "Præcipuas verò, in hoc opere, partes occupant duumviri D. Richardson et D. Jac. Sherardus, Amici nostri honoratissimi, qui, de industriâ, crebris institutis itineribus botanicis,

Plantarum Angliæ familiam plurimùm auxerunt; plantas dubias, earumque loca minus certa restituerunt, et species demùm novas nondum descriptas, ipsi invenerunt." 1732.

We are now arrived at a period of great importance in the history of Chelsea Garden. What was the state of the buildings belonging to it prior to this period, whether as it regards the cultivation and preservation of the Plants, or as it respects the comfort and accommodation of the gardener, we are totally ignorant. But the Society at this time, very highly to its credit, formed a design, and began to carry into effect a plan, for erecting a fabrick, calculated to subserve both these purposes, upon a scale of extent and elegance, which would at the same time reflect honour upon its members, and embrace the most approved methods then known of raising and bringing to maturity the more delicate productions of foreign countries, by imitating as nearly as possible the various temperatures of their native climates.

1732. As the expense attending this extensive building would be much greater than the Society's funds could afford, a subscription among the members was again resorted to, which amounted to 549*l.* 14*s.*; the Corporation agreeing to contribute a sum not exceeding 500*l.* for this important purpose.

A Court of Assistants, held the 24th of August, approved the agreement entered into by the garden Committee with Mr. Lambert for building the green-house and two hot-houses for the sum of 1550*l.* but the addition of some flues, proposed by Mr. Miller, caused an increased charge of 125*l.* 18*s.* which was further augmented by the erection and completion of two stair-cases, which were estimated at 140*l.* 18*s.* So that the total expense, as far as can now be ascertained, including the sum of 76*l.* 5*s.* paid to the two Surveyors, Messrs. Oakley and Horne, was 1891*l.* 16*s.*

The buildings were immediately under-

taken, and completed in less than two years*. 1732.

During the present year the court made an order, which still further evinced their disposition to forward the cultivation of Botanick knowledge. It was that 20*l.* per Annum be paid by the Society towards the expense of sending a person to Georgia, to collect trees and plants, and to make experiments concerning raising them in England, which sum was in the following 1733.

* In the bed of a Plinth to the middle break in the front of the green-house lies, inclosed in lead, a copper Plate, on which is engraven the following inscription, viz.

This was the first stone laid by the hands of Sir Hans Sloane, Donor of this Garden to perpetuity, for the improvement of useful knowledge.
August 12th, 1732.

Mr. WILLIAM WITHERS,
Master of the Society of Apothecarys,

Mr. RALPH FORSTER,
ROBT. HARRIS, ESQ. } Wardens.

EDWARD OAKLEY, Architect.

1733. year ordered to be paid to the trustees for that colony.

As a monument of gratitude to the munificence of Sir Hans Sloane, the Court of Assistants (August 23d) came to a determination to erect a statue of him in marble. It was originally placed in the front of the green-house, but its destination was afterwards changed, and in 1748 it was removed, and fixed on a pedestal in the garden, nearly in the centre, facing the principal building. The reason of this change seems to have arisen from a doubt of the strength of the front wall being equal to the weight of the statue; as it appears that the opinions of three surveyors were required upon this question.

This statue was the work of the celebrated Michael Rysbrach, and was finished in the year 1737, at the cost of 280*l.*

1736. Mr. Zachary Allen, a Member of the Society, and one of the Lessees of the

garden in 1707, bequeathed 50*l.* for the service of the garden. 1736.

The names of the subscribers to the building of the green-house, were ordered to be painted on a suitable frame, and hung up in some conspicuous part of that edifice. 1737.

Mr. Samuel Dale, a Member of the Society, author of the Pharmacologia and some other works, left by his will a legacy of books to the Society, which were ordered to be kept in proper presses to be provided by the committee, and the clause in Mr. Dale's Will relating thereto to be entered in their minutes. 1739.

A biographical memorial of a man, whose professional and literary abilities would have rendered him an ornament to any society, must surely be esteemed a just tribute of gratitude to one, who was both a Member and Benefactor.

Samuel Dale was born at Braintree in Essex, about the year 1658; in which

1739. place he practised some years as an Apothecary. In 1693 he first published his Pharmacologia, in an octavo volume. It was afterwards republished in quarto, and went through several editions both in this country, and in foreign parts. His first edition was among the earliest rational books, on the subject of drugs and medicinal preparations, and was coupled with great botanical knowledge. The subsequent editions were so much improved by the author, as to render the book not only at that time, but even at present, a work of considerable value, particularly for his collection of synonyms. Mr. Dale also republished a work of Silas Taylor, entitled, "Antiquities of Harwich and Dovercourt," valuable for its very accurate notices on Natural History. In 1730, he obtained a degree of Doctor in Medicine, became a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and removed to Bocking in Essex, where he practised until his death, on the 6th of June 1739, in the eightieth year of his age. There is a portrait of him in the Court room at Apothecaries

Hall. He was buried in the Dissenters' burial ground at Bocking. 1739.

The conditions stipulated by Dr. Dale, in relation to his devise of books and dried plants, were as follow, "That the Master and Wardens shall, within twelve months next after his decease, make or erect proper conveniences in their Physick Garden at Chelsea, for the reception thereof, and under such regulations for the keeping and preserving them, as shall be agreed on, and approved by Sir Hans Sloane and his executors after named."

Sir Hans Sloane having been consulted on this occasion, his opinion was, that it would be most proper to have a press or presses made, sufficient to contain the whole of them, that they may be kept by themselves, with an inscription thereon, denoting that these books and plants were the donation of Dr. Dale.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blackwell, the celebrated author of the Herbal, which was published about this time, resided at Chelsea opposite the Physick Garden, for

1739. the convenience of having daily access to such rare and curious plants, as could no where else be found. Her engravings being stated to be after drawings taken from the life, this privilege of access to the garden, must have been of great importance to her.

1741. It will excite no small surprise to find, that the green-house, which had not been finished more than seven years, should be at this time in such a state, as to excite serious alarm for its safety. This, however, appears to have been the case, for in the month of August, the opinion of two architects, Messrs. Gibbs and Dance was taken upon the subject, and delivered to the Court of Assistants; which opinion stated, that the building required reparations to the amount of 300*l.* to prevent it falling down.

1743. Probably the danger was not then so imminent as to require immediate attention; as nothing material was done in it, until the present year, when the repairs attending the garden amounted to 215*l.*

Mr. Joseph Miller, who served the office of Master in 1738, was chosen demonstrator of plants, in the room of Mr. Isaac Rand deceased, with a salary of 34*l.* exclusive of the interest of Mr. Meres' legacy, being 8*l.* 1743.

An order was made that no person be permitted to gather specimens from the garden without leave from the director or gardener, and that no person whatever, who is not a Member of the Society, be permitted to walk in the garden without the attendance of the gardener.

The improper conduct of an individual must be presumed to have been the reason of this prohibitory regulation, for it is stated that Mr. Hill, (afterwards Sir John Hill,) having exceeded all bounds of reason and good manners in taking specimens from the garden, be in future excluded. 1744.

Mr. Joseph Miller produced a catalogue of Botanick books presented by the executrix of Mr. Isaac Rand.

1745. Mr. Robert Nicholls presented twelve volumes of dried plants, which were deposited in the green-house.

1746. Mr. Joseph Miller offered to reduce his salary as demonstrator from 34*l.* to 27*l.* which with the addition of Mr. Meres' legacy amounted to 35*l.* This offer the Court accepted, though no reason, whatever is assigned, either for the proposal, or for the acquiescence of the Court.

1747. The condition of the green-house, as already mentioned became now an object of immediate attention; it must have been discovered to have been much worse than was originally supposed, for towards the close of this year, the Master acquainted the Court of Assistants, that he had waited upon Sir Hans Sloane with a statement of the very large repairs, which appeared at this time to be necessary for the garden, which had been estimated at 933*l.* 15*s.* upon which he offered 100 Guineas towards this expense, and to endeavour to procure further assistance from some of his friends, which the Court thankfully accepted; and the repairs immediately

necessary amounting to 175*l.* were ordered to be done, as soon as the season would permit. 1747.

March 21st. Sir Hans Sloane presented 150*l.* towards the repairs of the garden. This very handsome donation may be presumed to have included the 100 guineas above mentioned. Dr. John Wilmer was appointed demonstrator of Botany, in the room of Mr. Joseph Miller deceased. His salary was fixed at 30*l.* per annum, including the interest of Mr. Meres' legacy. 1748.

The widow of Mr. Joseph Miller presented twenty two volumes of dried plants, for which the thanks of the Court of Assistants were presented to her.

A subscription among the Members was again proposed to be opened, on account of the great expense to be incurred in repairing or rebuilding the green-house; but as nothing more is said of it, it probably did not take place.

1750. The committee, during the present year, reported that, having carefully examined the garden, they found it in very good order, and were well satisfied at the appearance of a very large number of rare plants, many of which were non-descripts; and these were owing to Mr. Miller's great diligence in settling a correspondence, and procuring seeds and plants from various parts of the world.

1751. The statue of Sir Hans Sloane having been lately removed from its original station in front of the green-house, and placed upon a pedestal in the garden; the following inscription in Latin, prepared by Mr. Warden Chase, was approved and executed:

Hansio Sloane, Baronetto, Archiatro,
Insignissimo Botanices Fautori,
Hoc honoris causâ Monimentum,
Inque perpetuam ejus Memoriam,
Sacrum voluit
Societas Pharmacopœiorum Londinensis.
1733.

On two other sides of the pedestal, are the following inscriptions, 1751.

They being sensible how necessary
that branch of science is to the
faithful discharging the duty
of their Profession, with grateful
hearts and general consent,
ordered this statue to be erected,
in the year of our Lord 1733,
that their Successors and Posterity
may never forget their common
Benefactor.
Placed here in the year 1737.
SIR BENJAMIN RAWLING, KNT. Master.
MR. JOSEPH MILLER, } Wardens.
MR. JOSEPH RICHARDS. }

The Garden Committee which, in the year 1722 was directed to consist of the Master, Wardens, and nine other Members of the Court, was continued the same, as to the number of Members; but it was now ordered that three of them should be changed every year. 1752.

The annual charge of the garden, which for several years past had fluctuated between 200*l.* and 220*l.* was this year increased by an expenditure of 108*l.* in 1753.

1753. repairs. This appears to have given rise to the following minute of the Court of Assistants; namely, " A Report of the expense of the garden, for the last seven years, having been taken into consideration; the Master and Wardens were directed to wait on the Earl of Macclesfield, President of the Royal Society, and to represent to him the great expense the Society sustained in maintaining the Botanical garden at Chelsea; for which Sir Hans Sloane made no provision in his will; and to consult with him as to the future measures the Society should take."

This interview most probably took place, but of the result of it there is no account, nor of any thing having been done in consequence of this representation.

1759. A legacy of 100*l.* was received from Mrs. Rand, in trust for these special purposes; that two-thirds of the annual interest be paid to the demonstrator for the time being, for placing twenty newly dried specimens of plants yearly, in her late husband's collection, in room of such as may

be decayed, and the other third of such interest to the Master and Wardens for seeing it done. This legacy was ordered to be invested in 3 per cent. Annuities. 1759.

It must be presumed, that there were at this time no suitable apartments in the green-house for the residence of the gardener, as there had been for many years before; for a memorial was now presented from Mr. Miller, requesting the Society to build him a dwelling in the garden. In consequence of this memorial, Dr. Wilmer and Mr. Miller were desired to procure a proper habitation for the latter and his family, until the Court should be able to give a more satisfactory answer. What steps of a more permanent nature were taken upon this business cannot at present be known. 1761.

October 25th Dr. John Wilmer resigned his office of Præfectus Horti and Botanical Demonstrator; and on the 14th of March following, Mr. William Hudson was elected to succeed him in those offices. 1764. 1765.

1767. Mr. Miller presented a memorial to the Court of Assistants, setting forth his services from the time of his appointment in 1722 to that period; and also the various expenses he had incurred for the improvement of the garden, for which he had never been indemnified, amounting to 62*l.* and that his present expenses were such as to consume the whole of his salary.

In consequence of this memorial, the Court of Assistants ordered that 50*l.* be given him as a consideration for his expenditure in correspondence, &c. and that his salary be not increased, but such annual gratuity be given him as the Garden Committee shall recommend, and the Court approve.

The following document, extracted from the minutes of the Garden Committee, and connected, doubtless, with the preceding memorial, is too curious to be omitted. It is certainly of a very singular description, and by no means easy, at this distance of time, to be fully un-

derstood; particularly in relation to the payment of the men's wages out of the gardener's salary. It is entitled 1767.

"*An exact account of all money received, and the money paid to workmen from Christmas* 1765 *to Christmas* 1766, *by* MR. MILLER, *Gardener, for keeping the Botanick Garden at Chelsea.*

	£.	s.	d.
To money paid by the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries	50	0	0
Taken at the gate for shewing the Garden	31	4	0
	£81	4	0

Paid to 3 men, 52 weeks at 9*s.* per week ..	70	0	0
——to a fourth man at 10*s.* per week	4	0	0
Charges of several parcels of seeds sent by the Post, and also of plants sent per sea	15	5	0
	£89	5	0

"By which it appears that I am a considerable loser, instead of having any thing for myself. And from the inclemency of the season, I have not received 4*s.* per week on an average since Christmas last."

1768. A gratuity of 50*l.* was ordered to Mr. Miller, as an acknowledgment of his various services to the Society, which were enumerated as the ground of such grant.

1769. Mr. Stanesby Alchorne, having been requested to prepare a new catalogue of the books, remaining in the Library at Chelsea Garden, presented the same, in the following year, to the Committee for managing the garden, and received their thanks.

From this catalogue it appears, that the Library consisted almost entirely of books confined to Botanical subjects, 266 in number, and of pamphlets and unbound books about fifty; besides which there were in the Library at Apothecaries Hall 238 volumes of books, the greater part of which were on subjects of Botany, and other departments of Natural History; many of them having been at different times removed there from Chelsea. The Society likewise possessed twenty volumes of dried plants, being the Hortus Siccus of Mr. Joseph Miller; and a bun-

dle of dried plants given by Dr. John Wilmer, who succeeded the former as Præfectus Horti. Mr. Isaac Rand's collection is not here mentioned. 1769.

A catalogue of the plants contained in the garden, and an inventory of every particular of the Society's property there and in the green-house, was ordered to be made. This order was intrusted to a committee, who were allowed to take such assistance as might be requisite; considerable progress was made in it, but in consequence of opposition to it, said to be made by Mr. Miller, great delay was occasioned; and afterwards a new committee was appointed for that purpose, in order to obviate some difficulties raised by Mr. Miller. Whatever these difficulties might have been, the new committee were not more successful in their proceedings than the former. Fresh complaints were made of Mr. Miller's conduct, which terminated in his request to resign the office of gardener, which resignation was accepted by the Court of Assistants; and the Garden Committee were 1770.

1770. authorized to treat with Mr. William Forsyth, who had offered himself as a candidate for that office, and being approved, was appointed gardener. His salary to be 60*l.* per annum, with lodging rooms in the green-house, and coals. He was likewise to be allowed 50*l.* per annum for two or more under gardeners to be provided by himself, but was restrained from selling roots or plants. To these terms Mr. Forsyth agreed, and entered upon his duties accordingly.

Proper rules and directions for the conduct of the gardener having been drawn up, they were entered at length in the minute book of the Committee, (28th December 1770,) and a copy of them ordered to be hung up in the Library.

It is greatly to be lamented that the last years of the services of this eminent Botanist, Miller, which had continued almost half a century, should be shadowed by the dissatisfaction, which subsisted between the Society and him in the affairs of the garden. On his part it may have

arisen solely from the imbecility and peevishness consequent upon his great age; and on the part of the Committee from too great anxiety for the success of the garden, influencing them to less forbearance with respect to those infirmities, than they would otherwise have considered him entitled to. Under these circumstances his resignation was highly commendable; and the grant to him of a pension of 50*l.* annually, appears to have produced on both sides a cordial reconciliation; though he survived only a short time to enjoy it. The following Biographical sketch of him cannot be uninteresting to every friend of true excellence. 1771.

Philip Miller was born in or near London in 1691. He raised himself by his merit, from a state of obscurity to a degree of eminence rarely attained by a person in his station of life. In 1722 he was appointed gardener to the Botanick Garden at Chelsea, which office he filled with great reputation for the long space of 48 years. He not only excelled in the knowledge of exotic plants, but was inti-

1771. mately acquainted with the indigenous productions of Britain. He added to his theoretical knowledge, that of the structure and character of plants; and was practically versed in the methods of Ray and Tournefort. Habituated to the systems of these two great men, it is not surprising that he was reluctantly brought to adopt the Linnæan discoveries; but he was convinced at length, by the arguments of Watson and Hudson, of their correctness, and accordingly embraced them.

The first edition of his great work, "The Gardener's Dictionary" was published in 1731 in a folio volume; the eighth edition of that size, and the last during his life-time appeared in 1768. Besides which several editions of an abridgement of it were published in octavo, and one edition in quarto. The merit of this work is too well understood to render any remark necessary. Suffice it to say, that it has been translated into the Dutch, German, and French Languages; and that a new and greatly improved edition of it

was edited by Professor Martyn in the year 1807, in four large folio volumes. He passed some time in Holland to acquire a knowledge of the practice of the famous Florists in that country. His Horticultural improvements were many and great, and he maintained a correspondence with the most eminent foreign Botanists, and particularly with Linnæus; who said of his Dictionary, "Non erit Lexicon Hortulanorum, sed etiam Botanicorum." By other foreigners he was styled "Hortulanorum Princeps." He was a Member of the Botanick Academy at Florence, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, being occasionally elected of their council. 1771.

He had at various times several pupils under him, who afterwards attained considerable eminence: among whom are to be enumerated Aiton and Forsyth. The latter succeeded him in the care of Chelsea Garden. Mr. Miller's great age and infirmities induced him to resign that office a short time before his death, which took place at Chelsea, on the 18th De-

1771. cember, 1771. He left a very large Herbarium of exotic plants, collected principally from the garden, which was purchased by Sir Joseph Banks. Though possessed of no wealth, his latter days were made comfortable by the liberality of the Society of Apothecaries, in the pension allowed him, to which his long and distinguished services justly entitled him.

Dr. Pulteney says, that Mr. Miller was the only person he ever knew, who remembered to have seen Mr. Ray: and that he should not easily forget the pleasure which enlightened his countenance; it so strongly expressed the "Virgilium tantùm vidi," when in speaking of that revered man, he related to him this incident of his youth.

Philip Miller married the sister of Ehret, the famous Botanick Painter, and had two sons, Philip and Charles. The former, after having worked some years under his Father, went to the East Indies, where he died. The latter, Charles, was educated at Chelsea, and was appointed

by Dr. Walker, the Founder of the Bo- 1771.
tanick Garden at Cambridge, his first Curator; after remaining some years there, he also went to the East Indies, whence he returned after many years with an ample fortune, and became resident in London. He was a good Botanist, and there are some papers, written by him, in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society.

He died October 6th, 1817, at the age of seventy-eight, and was buried at Chelsea in the same grave with his father.

Nearly half a century subsequent to the decease of Philip Miller, the Members of the Linnæan and Horticultural Societies, sensible of his superior merit, very highly to their honour determined to record that merit, and to make it more extensively known by erecting a monument to his memory; the expense of which was defrayed by a private subscription among themselves.

This was accordingly executed, not im-

1771. mediately over the place of his interment, the situation of which would not conveniently admit it, but in a more conspicuous part of the church-yard. It is a Cenotaph in the pillar form, the pedestal being circular, and the upper part surmounted by an urn enriched with foliage; the whole surrounded with iron railing.

On the pedestal is the following inscription:

Philip Miller,
sometime Curator of the Botanick Garden,
Chelsea;
and Author of the Gardener's Dictionary,
died December 18th 1771, aged 80,
and was buried on the North side of
this Church-yard,
in a spot now covered by
a Stone inscribed with his Name.
The Fellows of
the Linnæan and Horticultural Societies
of London,
in grateful Recollection of
the eminent Services rendered to
the Sciences of Botany and Horticulture
by his Industry and Writings,
have caused this Monument to be
erected to his Memory.
A. D. 1815.

In the summer of this year, it was 1771.
agreed to embank the garden towards the Thames, with the consent of the Water-Bailiff, on the part of the City of London as Conservators of that river, which embankment was carried into effect at an expense exceeding 400*l.* The first brick of this work was laid on the 7th of June by John Lisle, Esq. Master, in the presence of the Committee, having placed under it two pieces of his Majesty's coin of the present year.

This embankment was only to recover ground which had originally belonged to the garden, but had in process of time been washed away by the river.

In the spring of this year Mr. William Hudson resigned the office of Demonstrator of plants. Mr. Stanesby Alchorne, a member of the Society, and Assay master of his Majesty's mint, was requested, and kindly undertook to supply his place, *ad interim*, until another should be elected. It was at the same time, recommended to him to introduce a more scientific method

1771. at the Botanick Lectures than had been practised.

William Hudson was a man whose rank as a Botanist was too high to allow him to be passed over, in these memoirs, in silence.

He was born at Kendal, in the County of Westmoreland about the year 1732 or 3. He served his apprenticeship with an Apothecary in Panton street, whom he afterwards succeeded in business. The amiable and learned Benjamin Stillingfleet was his early friend in the study of natural history, and directed the attention of Hudson to the writings of Linnæus with such effect, that he may be justly considered as one of the earliest Linnæan Botanists in England, and probably the earliest author in this country who embraced that system; his 'Flora Anglica' was first published in 1762 in one volume. In his plan of this work he followed very much the example of Ray in describing the places of growth &c. in English, though the book was written in Latin, and the disposition

of the plants arranged according to the Linnæan system and nomenclature. The elegant Preface to it is said to have been from the pen of Stillingfleet. 1771.

This publication gave Mr. Hudson considerable reputation as a Botanist, both here and abroad. He had formed some very valuable connexions among the favourers of Natural History, and was the correspondent of Linnæus, H aller, and other eminent foreigners. He was elected F.R.S. 5th of November 1761. He took an active part in the affairs of the Society of Apothecaries, particularly as one of the Committee for the management of Chelsea Garden, and in 1765 was appointed Præfectus Horti, and Botanick Demonstrator to that Society, which office he resigned in 1771. In 1778 he published a new edition of his ' Flora,' in two volumes with considerable additions; and in every respect so much improved as to render it highly valuable at the present time. In the winter of 1783 his house and the greater part of his valuable treasures were destroyed by fire, which was gene-

1771. rally believed to have been caused designedly by a servant, who knew of a considerable sum of money, which he had received a day or two before. Being at that time uninsured, his loss was great, and not only severely felt by a man of his limited resources, but at the same time defeated a project which he had entertained of publishing a Fauna Britannica, for which he had been long collecting materials. In 1791 he became a member of the Linnæan Society. After the fire he removed to Jermyn street: having retired from practice, and having never married, he resided with Mr. and Mrs. Hole, the latter of whom was the daughter of the person to whose business he succeeded. Here he died on the 23rd May 1793, and he was buried in St. James's Church. He bequeathed to the Society his dried specimens of plants, which were delivered by Mr. Bolton Hudson, his Executor.

At the recommendation of the Committee the two northern Cedar trees, being in a decayed state were cut down; and also several lime and elm trees, and

some others in the Officinal quarter, which were considered injurious to the growth of those plants for which the garden was more particularly designed; leaving, however, as many as might be esteemed consistent with the beauty and well being of the whole. 1771.

During the present and following year, a great interchange of exotic plants took place between the Society and the following Noblemen, Gentlemen, and others; namely, from

Her R. H. the Princess Dowager's garden at Kew
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland's at Sion
Mr. Ord's at Walham Green
Dr. William Pitcairn's at Islington
Mr. Gordon's Nursery Garden at Mile-end
Mr. Lee's Nursery Garden at Hammersmith
Mr. Watson's Nursery Garden at Islington
Dr. John Fothergill's Garden at Upton
The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Coventry's
Richard Warner's, Esq. at Woodford
Mr. Bewicke's at Clapham.

A bag of seeds was presented by Joseph Banks, Esq. and Dr. Solander.

It may be recorded as a circumstance of curiosity, that the produce and value

1771. of the two Cedar trees which had been cut down, were of the trunks 133¾ feet, at 2*s.* 8*d.* per foot, and of the boughs, 84¾ feet at 1*s.* 4*d.* per foot, amounting together to a valuation of 23*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

1772. Mr. Alchorne, Honorary Demonstrator, produced the twenty plants, which he had added to Mr. Rand's collection the present year, agreeably to the will of the late Mrs. Rand. It must be presumed that this condition had been hitherto regularly complied with, though no prior notice occurs in the minute books concerning it.

Mr. Alchorne, having placed in the garden nearly fifty new trees, particularly of the Cratægi, Mespili, and Pini Genera, which he presented to the Society; the thanks of the Committee were given to him for them.

The same gentleman presented about forty tons of old stones, brought from the Tower of London, for the purpose of raising an artificial rock, to cultivate those plants which delight in such a soil: to which was afterwards added a large quan-

tity of flints and chalk given by Mr. John Chandler; and also a large quantity of lava from a volcano in Iceland, presented by Joseph Banks, Esq. which materials being considered fully adequate to the purpose, it was undertaken, and the erection finished in the course of the summer of the following year. 1772.

It was ordered by the Court of Assistants, that each Member of the Garden Committee be allowed 2*s*. for coach-hire upon each attendance, and that the Committee should not exceed 220*l*. per annum in the expenditure of the garden, without the consent of the Court.

Mr. Stanesby Alchorne, who had officiated as honorary demonstrator of plants, about two years, since the resignation of Mr. Hudson, resigned his office, and was presented with a piece of plate of thirty guineas value, as a small acknowledgment of his services.

On the 15th of December, Mr. William Curtis was elected to the vacant office of

1772. demonstrator of plants, and Præfectus Horti.

1773. The duties of the demonstrator were set forth at large by the Committee, being as follows:

"1st. The office of Botanical Demonstrator to this Society, is to superintend their garden and gardener, as also their library, and all other matters upon their premises at Chelsea; but with submission always to the superior direction of the General Committee for the management of the Society's Garden. His duty is to encourage and cultivate the knowledge of Botany, as well theoretic as practical, among the students of this Society; for which purpose,

"2dly, He is to attend the Society's Garden at stated times, not less than once in every summer month, (from April to September, both inclusive) to demonstrate the plants, especially in the officinal quarter, with their names and uses. The last Wednesday in each of the above months

has been usually appropriated to this ser- 1773.
vice, beginning at nine of the clock in the morning.

" 3d. He is expected to make some annual excursion, for two days at least, preparatory to the Society's General Herborizing; inviting two or three of the ablest botanical members to his assistance. The intention being to collect such vegetables as are not commonly found in the environs of this metropolis, to be demonstrated by him at the meeting appointed for that purpose, and he will receive 3*l.* towards defraying the expence of every such journey, pursuant to the will of Mr. Robert Loggan, a late worthy member.

" 4th. He is to accompany and conduct the students of this Society in their search after indigenous plants, upon every day appointed for their private Herborizings, which are only five in each summer; when he is desired to use his best endeavours to preserve strict decorum among his pupils; and for directing and confining their attention solely to the intended business of

1773. the day. And as the regular lectures lately introduced on these occasions at the request of the Master and Wardens, have, on account of the times and places, appeared insufficient for teaching accurately the elements of botanick science; it is now recommended for the demonstrator to consider of some more effectual method of answering so desirable an end.

" 5th. He is yearly to prepare fifty dried specimens from plants, growing in the Society's Garden at Chelsea, which are to be presented to the Royal Society, by direction of the late Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. having been first approved by the Court of Assistants of this Society. Also to dry twenty other specimens, in lieu of so many plants which shall be found decayed in the collection of the late Mr. Rand, now in the library at Chelsea. These to be placed in the said Herbarium before the first day of May in every year, and there will be fifty shillings paid him for every such service, by appointment in the will of the late Mrs. Rand.

"6th. He is to attend each private Court, 1773.
at the Hall during the summer months, to give his advice (if required) relative to the private Herborizings; as likewise to be present at the several meetings of the general committee for managing the garden, where it has been customary for him to act as Secretary. And in this capacity it is earnestly recommended to him to cultivate an extensive botanical correspondence, both at home and abroad; and to keep copies of the same, as the most probable means for propagating the knowledge of this science: for enlarging and improving the garden under his inspection; and for promoting the interest and honour of this Society in general."

These instructions were directed to be entered in the general order book at Chelsea, and a copy of them delivered to Mr. Curtis for his private inspection. The Beadle of the Society was likewise ordered to give proper notice to the demonstrator of every intended meeting of the committee. During the present year various donations of seeds and plants, were re-

1773 ceived from several of the gentlemen before mentioned; and also from

Dr. Young, of St. Vincent's
Captain Blake, seeds transmitted from his Son in China.
Dr. Hope, of Edinburgh
Mr. Malcolm, of Kennington
Mr. Daniel Mildred.

Mr. Curtis's proposal for giving lectures on Botany, at the Hall, by explaining systematically the Principia Botanica, was approved and recommended to be carried into effect on the first and third Wednesdays in the summer months, at nine in the morning; but for some reason which does not now appear, this plan was not carried into effect.

1774. During several days in the month of March, very high tides occurred in the Thames, in consequence of which, the water rose fifteen inches within the nursery; though every endeavour was made to prevent it by damming up the gates, and making trenches to carry off the water.

Mr. Forsyth having complained that his salary was insufficient, the Committee proposed to recommend to the Court of Assistants, that for the augmentation of it, he be allowed to dispose of supernumerary specimens of plants, under proper restrictions, for his own benefit, which he was accordingly permitted to do. This permission is of so very objectionable a nature, that it is difficult to conceive what could have induced the managers to have sanctioned it. 1774.

The subjoined statement of the expenses of this Garden from the year 1741 to the present year, is copied from a paper drawn up by Mr. John Field, an active and intelligent member of the Society, both in this and other departments, particularly in the management of the affairs of the Navy Stock. 1775.

From this statement it will appear that the average annual charge, exclusive of the extraordinary expenses of those years in which important repairs or erections were made, did not exceed 240*l.* This

1775. calculation will be applicable only to the first thirty years of this period; subsequently to which the annual charge was rapidly increasing.

	£.	s.	d.	
1741	289	14	1	
1742	195	12	5	
1743	355	1	9	Repairs £196
1744	238	4	11	
1745	163	19	11	
1746	212	1	0	
1747	245	19	7	
				£1700 13 8

	£.	s.	d.	
1748	388	6	9	Repairs £175
1749	221	10	7	
1750	234	11	1	
1751	210	19	11	
1752	202	19	4	
1753	322	18	7	
1754	200	16	11	
				£1782 3 2

	£.	s.	d.	
1755	197	17	4	
1756	213	6	7	
1757	278	14	5	
1758	219	1	5	
1759	215	4	8	
1760	252	10	5	
1761	233	16	6	
				£1610 11 4

	£.	s.	d.				1775.
1762	204	19	3				
1763	256	15	8				
1764	240	13	4				
1765	195	15	9				
1766	221	17	3				
1767	226	9	9				
1768	322	10	0				
				£	1669	1 0	

	£.	s.	d.			
1769	282	11	11			
1770	269	5	6			
1771	917	16	8			
1772	383	2	5			
1773	291	15	0			
1774	306	4	3			
1775	339	13	4			
				£	2790	9 1

Total amount in thirty-five years....£9552 18 3

The very large expenditure of the year 1771 arose from the expense of embankment, and other extra charges connected with it, as well as necessary repairs.

The Court of Assistants directed that 1776.
every Member of that Court, who had served the office of Master, be a standing Member of the garden Committee, and

1776. that each Member of that Committee, be allowed 5*s.* for every attendance.

Mr. Forsyth, the gardener, having complained of the insecurity and inconvenience of his residence, the Committee were directed to examine into the same, and to consider what alterations may be made to improve it; upon which an estimate was presented of such improvements as appeared necessary, amounting to 87*l.* exclusive of iron work, which were carried into effect; to which expense was afterwards added 9*l.* for the rebuilding two decayed buttresses in the green-house.

1777. On the 27th of August, Mr. William Curtis resigned his office of botanick de-
1778. monstrator; and on the 18th of March following, Mr. Thomas Wheeler, F.L.S. was appointed to succeed him, with an additional allowance of 2*l.* for the July Herborizing excursion.

The merits of the late demonstrator, as a Botanist, justly demand, as connected

with this Society, some biographical tri- 1778.
bute to his memory.

William Curtis was born at Alton, in Hampshire in the year 1746. His father was a tanner in that town, and in the vicinity of it he received his education, which was of a very confined nature. He was placed an apprentice to his grandfather, who practised as an Apothecary in the same place. He was early led into the study of Botany, and that principally by residing next to the Crown Inn; the ostler of which, John Lagg, a steady sober man, had acquired, by means of the well known works of Parkinson and Gerarde, a considerable knowledge of plants; which so forcibly impressed the young mind of Curtis, as to lay the foundation for a developement of those powers, which afterwards made him so deservedly conspicuous. At the expiration of his apprenticeship, he came to the metropolis, and entered into the service of Mr. Thomas Talwyn of Gracechurch Street. Mr. Talwyn was a Member of the Society of Friends, of which religious persuasion

1778. the parents of Curtis also were. After some time the latter succeeded him in business; but his Botanical pursuits interfered too much with professional duties to allow his obtaining extensive medical practice, for which there is reason to believe he was otherwise well qualified.

The office of demonstrator of Botany to the Society of Apothecaries being now vacant, Mr. Curtis, who had obtained the favourable opinion of many persons eminent for their knowledge of Natural History, and among the rest Mr. Alchorne, was strongly recommended to the Society by that gentleman as a proper candidate to fill up the vacancy; to which he was accordingly elected, having previously been admitted a Member of the Society. He continued in that office about five years, when his avocations induced him to resign it. He had united to the study of Botany, that of Entomology. In 1771 he published "Instructions for the collecting, and preserving insects," and in the following year, a translation of Linnæus's Fundamenta Entomologiæ.

Soon after his appointment to the Society of Apothecaries, he commenced public lecturer in Botany, both as to its principles and practice. For the use of his pupils in these lectures, he occupied a piece of ground as a garden, first in the Grange road, afterwards in Lambeth Marsh, and subsequently at Brompton; which last he continued to cultivate until his death; the soil and situation being much more suitable to his purpose than that at Lambeth. The principal object of these gardens was the growth of the indigenous plants of Britain. 1778.

In 1771, he commenced his great work of "The Flora Londinensis," which was extended to six Fasciculi of seventy two plants each. It was originally intended to have embraced all the plants growing within ten miles of London; and was conducted, so far as it went, with the greatest care and accuracy; but the sale of it, never exceeding 300 copies, was not equal to the expense, and it was therefore necessarily given up, which, as a national work, is much to be regretted.

1778. But if this plan failed, he very happily projected another, of a nature, though in many respects inferior to the former, yet more captivating to the public at large. 'The Botanical Magazine' immediately became popular. It commenced about 1787, soon attained a monthly sale of 3000 numbers, and was steadily adhered to until his death. Mr. Curtis had neither fortune nor patrimony; he here found a valuable estate, but the continued produce of it depended entirely upon the regularity of its publication. Hence he was compelled to a punctuality, of which if he had seen the necessity in his former work of the Flora Londinensis, it would most probably, have been accompanied with greater success.

His friendships were very numerous: among his most esteemed patrons and friends may be enumerated the names of Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. John Sims, Dryander, Withering, Hunter, Dickson, Sibthorp, Lightfoot.

Besides those already mentioned, there

are several minor publications of his, as 1778.
also some papers in the transactions of the Linnæan Society.

He laboured, for nearly a twelvemonth before his death, under a disease of the chest, which put a period to his life on the 7th of July 1799, in the 53rd year of his age; he was buried at Battersea, and left behind him the character of an honest friendly man, a lively entertaining companion, and a good tutor, always ready to encourage noviciates, and to render the science of Botany as attractive as possible.

During this summer, above 100 packets of seeds were presented to the Society from Joseph Banks, Esq. and Dr. Ryan of Santa Croix.

The sum of 25*l.* was paid to Mr. Forsyth, as an indemnity for the expences he had sustained from the bad state of his apartments.

The little stove in the garden being too 1779.
much decayed to be capable of repair, a

1779. new one with several improvements was built, the estimated expense being 49*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

1780. The Committee for the management of the garden were allowed to expend 5*l.* for refreshments at each of their meetings.

It was likewise ordered that they do not exceed 250*l.* in the expences of the garden for the ensuing year.

1781. Their liberal Benefactor, Sir Joseph Banks, (who is understood to have commenced his Botanical studies in this garden, under the tuition of the venerable Philip Miller,) presented more than 500 different kinds of seeds, collected in his late voyage round the globe.

Mr. Alexander Anderson presented above 100 packets of seeds from St. Lucia.

1782. The Committee reported to the Court of Assistants, that they had considered Mr. Forsyth's plan for reducing the charges of the garden, and find, that, if

adopted, it would not save more than 1782.
thirty or forty pounds annually, and as they considered keeping up the garden in a respectable manner to be for the honour of the Society, they judged it right to propose some plan of augmenting the income of the Corporation, to enable them better to support this expense; which they thought would be best attained, by charging the rents paid by the two commercial stocks, with such a certain annual proportion of their profits, as might be a reasonable compensation for the lands, and other advantages enjoyed by them from the Corporation; and which, varying according to the profit of each year, would be more equitable than a fixed annual sum.

This plan was approved by the Court of Assistants, and the clerk ordered to give the necessary information to the Managers of the Navy and Laboratory Stocks.

From subsequent proceedings it appears that this scheme, though approved by the Court on the behalf of the Navy Stock.

1782. was not agreed to either by the Committee, or the proprietors of the Laboratory Stock; who only consented to add 25*l.* per Annum, to their allowance for the garden, which being considered by the Court, they declined accepting it.

1784. Mr. Wheeler, Botanical Demonstrator, commenced a series of lectures at the Hall, on the principles of Botany, which was carried on about two years, but not meeting with due encouragement in the attendance of pupils, they were then discontinued.

Mr. William Forsyth, the gardener, gave in his resignation in the spring of this year, in consequence of having been appointed to a similar situation in his Majesty's Garden at Kensington. He received the thanks of the Committee for his great care of the garden, while in the Society's service.

William Forsyth, F.A.S. and L.S. was born at Old Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, in the year 1737, and came to London in

1763; when he became a pupil to Philip Miller in the garden of this Society, whom he succeeded in his office of gardener, in 1771; having been some time prior to that period in the service of the Duke of Northumberland at Sion. He continued until his death, July 25th, 1804, chief superintendant of the Royal Gardens at Kensington and St. James's. 1784.

Mr. Forsyth, having for many years given attention to the cultivation of fruit and forest trees, and to the diseases and injuries incident to them, succeeded in preparing a composition to remedy those diseases. In 1789, the success of these experiments obtained the notice of the commissioners of the Land Revenue, and in consequence of their recommendation he obtained a parliamentary reward for this discovery. Though the originality of his invention was by some doubted, and occasioned considerable controversy, yet the issue of these inquiries was upon the whole favourable to him. He published in 1791, his "Observations on the diseases, defects, and injuries of fruit and

1784. forest trees," and in 1802, appeared the final result of his labours in a " treatise on the culture and management of fruit trees," which has been sufficiently esteemed to pass through three editions in a very short time.

The Committee for Chelsea Garden being at this time composed of Members of the Court of Assistants only; it was judged that the addition of some Members of the Livery would be useful. Three of whom were accordingly appointed for that purpose.

Mr. John Fairbairn was elected gardener, who was to make the apartments over the green-house his residence, and to comply with the rules and directions for his conduct, then read to him.

Some considerable repairs were carried into effect during this summer; particularly new slating of the green-house, repairing the glass-work of the various lights, and also the gardener's apartments: the expense of which amounted to about 140*l.*

The tan stove being greatly decayed, a new one was erected in its place, upon the most improved plan, at an estimated charge of 180*l*. 1785.

In consequence of this, and the numerous reparations now required for the various erections in the garden; the propriety of asking assistance from the Society at large was taken into consideration; when it was resolved, that a subscription for that purpose be forthwith opened. This determination was communicated to the Members at the usual Common Hall held in the month of October, and being approved, was acted upon accordingly.

It is a most gratifying feature in the memoirs of this garden, that the Members of the Society have stepped forward with the utmost alacrity, in every period of that history, where pecuniary exertions were necessary for the support of this valuable establishment; which energy was at no time more conspicuous than at the present; for in the following summer, the Court of Assistants were informed that the 1786.

1786. subscription for the garden had been so successful as to amount to 539*l.* 19*s.* and that after discharging the several workmen's bills, the remainder had been sufficient to purchase 530*l.* in the 4 per cent. Bank Annuities, as a fund for future buildings.

To facilitate the free admission of Members of the Society into their Botanick Garden, and to enable the gardener and his servants to distinguish such Members from strangers, an engraved card suitably ornamented, and endorsed by the Master and Wardens for the time being, was directed to be given to every present and future Member, to which the gardener and his servants are to pay due regard: it being understood that all persons visiting the garden are to be attended by the gardener, or one of his servants, and that the plants be not taken or damaged.

1787. A quantity of loam was procured for the use of the garden from Sion, with the consent of the Duke of Northumberland; and several loads of black mould from

Wimbledon, with the approbation of Earl Spencer. 1787.

Two new stoves were erected in the garden at an estimated expense of 176*l.* 11*s.* 1789.

Several donations of seeds were received this year from the following gentlemen; namely, 1790.

Sir Joseph Banks, Bart.
James Edward Smith, M.D.
Mr. James Dixon, of the British Museum
William Pitcairn, M.D.
Professor Jacquin of Vienna
Mr. Hare, Seedsman, St. James's Street
Mr. Chapman, at Mr. Secretary Stephens, Fulham
Mr. William Hudson
Commodore Gardner of the Admiralty.

It was proposed to erect two new tan-pits in front of the little tan-stove, and new glass cases in the room of the old tan-pits now fallen into decay. This proposal was approved by the Committee; but desiring to proceed with caution, they directed only one of them to be built at present, wishing more satisfactorily to as-

1790. certain the benefit of it, before they incurred the expense of the whole, which
1791. would amount to about 70*l.* This erection gave so much satisfaction, that in the following year the plan was completed by the addition of a second tan-pit.

1792. A new dry stove was erected at the west end of the green-house, in the room of the old one, which was in a ruinous state. The estimated expense was 170*l.* 9*s.* exclusive of the charge of 12*l.* for a leaden cistern to be placed in it.

1793. The following valuable donations are recorded in the present year; namely,

Commodore Gardner, seeds from Port Jackson and Norfolk Island

Dr. James Edward Smith, bulbous roots and seeds from Sierra Leone

Robert Sherson, Esq; seeds from Port Jackson.

Dr. Buxton, bulbs and seeds from the Cape of Good Hope

Mr. Willis, seeds from Africa

Mr. Salisbury, of Leeds, seeds from Madrid

Mr. Dixon, of Covent Garden, seeds from Germany.

1796. The salary of the Botanick Demon-

strator which had been for many years 1796.
37*l.* 10*s.* was increased to 45*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Mr. John Tutton, the proprietor of the wall on the south-west boundary of the garden, having agreed to cede his right to that wall for the term of seventy-two years in consideration of the Society paying the expense of rebuilding it amounting to 6*l.* 12*s.* his proposal was acceded to, under the advice of the Society's Solicitor, and on the 22nd June 1797, the Corporation seal was affixed to the Lease.

Some encroachment appears to have 1801.
been made on the Barge-house, which must have been of a very trivial nature, for it was ordered at a Court of Assistants (30th January,) that Mr. Dalston pay 2*s.* 6*d.* for this encroachment, to which he consented.

Two new water troughs, lined with lead, 1804.
for the culture of aquatic plants, were provided at the cost of 24*l.* and placed in a

1804. convenient part of the garden near the centre.

1806. The dried plants bequeathed to the Society by the late Mr. William Hudson, were presented to Mr. Thomas Wheeler, Demonstrator.

The two Barge-houses were let on Lease to the Goldsmiths' Company for twenty-one years at the net annual rent of 10*l.* for each Barge-house. The tenants to make all repairs and alterations at their own expense.

1807. It was directed by the Committee, that no person be allowed to borrow any book from the Library without their leave; and that no book be retained longer than three months. The Library to be annually inspected at the Committee in the month of August.

1808. Lord Valentia was permitted to be supplied with plants of the true ginger (Amomum Zinziber) Turmeric (Curcuma longa,) and arrow root, (Maranta arundinacea.)

The cedar trees were much damaged by the heavy falls of snow, which took place during the last winter. 1809.

Several rare plants were presented by James Vere, Esq; from the collection in his garden at Kensington Gore.

It was now ordered that the regular meetings of the Garden Committee be held in the months of April, June, August and September. 1810.

Agreeably to a recommendation of the Committee, it was ordered by the Court of Assistants, that each Member of the Society, pay in future ten shillings and sixpence annually towards the support of the garden, instead of six shillings as heretofore. 1811.

In the month of December died Mr. John Fairbairn, who had held the office of gardener upwards of thirty years. His great age, and consequent infirmities had occasioned much neglect in the management of the garden during the latter years 1814.

1814. of his life. The effects of which were highly detrimental to the well-being of that establishment, and equally disreputable to the Society.

The Court of Assistants, much to their credit, determined in the appointment of a successor to be influenced solely by the merits of the respective candidates.

Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. President of the Royal Society, and Sir James Edward Smith, President of the Linnæan Society; having honoured the Court with letters, recommending in the strongest terms, Mr. William Anderson at that time principal gardener to James Vere, Esq; as a person, in their opinion eminently qualified to fill that station, he was elected accordingly, with a salary of 100*l.* per annum, and the usual apartments for his residence.

At the same time, a pension of 40*l.* per annum, was given to the widow of the late gardener, with permission, by Mr. Anderson's consent, of her continuing in her apartments; but she did not long live to enjoy these benefits.

The state of the garden being such as 1815.
to require immediate attention, both from the great degree of dilapidation which had taken place in the different buildings, and also from the long continued neglect of cultivation ; the Court of Assistants having determined to carry it on with energy, prepared to adopt such measures as appeared to them best calculated to restore its pristine state of eminence, and even to advance it to as high a rank in the scale of exotic gardening, as the present improved state of that science would require, in order to establish the reputation of the garden, and the honour of that Society, which had so long patronized it.

Mr. Anderson, the gardener, having been desired to give his opinion as to the best methods to be adopted for this purpose, recommended the following alterations.

That the old building immediately behind Sir Hans Sloane's statue, which had long ceased to be useful even as a tool-house, be pulled down, and the materials

1815. of it employed in erecting a room behind the little green-house, for the under gardeners to sleep in; in which situation it would be particularly useful to them, being near the flues, which in the winter season, require the constant attention of one man during the night.

That the flues in the several houses in the garden, being badly constructed, be rebuilt on an improved principle, which would cause a considerable saving in the article of coal.

That a pump be fixed in the garden to supply it with Thames water; Spring water being found to injure plants very much.

That the internal garden formerly employed for culinary uses be appropriated to the purposes of Instructive Horticulture; a branch of Botanical Science, which may be made very useful to society.

These recommendations obtained the approbation of the Committee, and, with

a general repair of the buildings were di- 1815.
rected to be carried into immediate effect.

The funds of the Society being considered very inadequate to accomplish these extensive designs in a suitable manner; a subscription among the Members was again proposed, which was with their usual readiness agreed to, according to the subjoined scale of payment; namely,

	£.	s.	d.
Members of the Court of Assistants, each,	3	3	0
——— of the Livery	2	2	0
——— of the Yeomanry.....	1	1	0

The total sum raised by these Subscriptions was 494*l* 2*s*.

About this time the Horticultural Society of London, being desirous to obtain and naturalize, as far as the climate would permit, all the cultivated variety of vegetables, employed as human food, and as condiments, were anxious to possess the use of a garden to enable them to raise and increase all such rare and improved esculent plants and fruits, as their extensive intercourse promises to supply, in

1815. order that they may be gratuitously distributed.

They therefore made the following proposal to the Court of Assistants; namely, that they may be allowed to use a part of their physic garden for that purpose, under the intire government of the Court of Assistants; and the direction of their principal gardener. They were ready to pay all the expences attending it together with the charge of a helping gardener.

The Committee having maturely considered this proposal declined accepting it on the terms above mentioned; but at the same time expressed their readiness to direct any experiments to be made, by their gardener, in the science of Horticultural Gardening, upon application being made to them for that purpose.

A part of the garden, near the river, has been since chiefly employed in promoting this design, by the planting of various fruit trees and esculent vegetables.

In consequence of a representation made to the Lord Mayor, by the Clerk of the Society, of various depredations made on the shore before the wall of the garden, the Water Bailif examined the same, and engaged that no further encroachment should take place. 1815.

The superintendance and direction of the great improvements and repairs which had lately been carried on, having devolved chiefly on William Simons, Esq. Upper Warden; the thanks of the Committee were given to him for his judicious and economical application of the monies, so liberally contributed by the Members of the Society, in the construction of the different hot houses, flues, &c. in the garden. The total amount of money expended in these repairs, alterations, and new erections, was 574*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* 1816.

The ordinary expenditure of the garden this year, was, 535*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* 1817.

The Barge-house lately occupied by the Society for their own use, being no longer 1818.

1818. required for that purpose, was let on lease to Mr. Lyall, of the Swan Brew-house, for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas 1818, at a rent of 10*l.* per annum. He being permitted to open a window overlooking the Society's Garden, on paying annually 5*s.* for such privilege, and signing an agreement to stop it up, whenever required by a previous notice of three months. It appeared afterwards that the wall of this Barge-house was in so ruinous a state, in consequence of a common sewer running close to, and forming a part of it, that considerable repairs were necessary to be done to the wall. These repairs were, therefore, executed at the expense of the Society.

The Commissioners of Sewers having been applied to, requesting that they would direct the course of the sewer to be altered, in order to avoid future injury to the building; they gave directions accordingly. The expenditure of the garden this year was 505*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.* according to the subjoined statement.

1818.

	£.	s.	d.
Labourers Wages	130	15	6
Gardener's Salary	100	0	0
Sundry Bills	158	10	4
Ground Rent	5	0	0
Taxes	63	6	2
Committee Expenses	47	13	3

Having now given an account of the rise and progress of this important and beneficial establishment, it only remains to perform the pleasing task of exhibiting a general view of its present state and condition. 1820.

Having seen the many difficulties it has had to surmount, and the repeated efforts which have been made, in various ways, to maintain even its existence, it is truly gratifying to observe the proud eminence upon which the Botanick Garden at Chelsea is now placed. It has within these few years revived from circumstances of great depression, from a state almost bordering upon dissolution, and has attained a

1820. point of superiority, which the warmest wishes of its most cordial friends and zealous advocates could scarcely, in the same space of time, have anticipated. That this has been principally caused by the steady patronage and laudable exertions of the Society of Apothecaries is indisputable; but it must at the same time be admitted, that great merit attaches to their present Gardener, by whose fostering care, skilful management, and unremitting attention, these exertions have been followed up, and carried into effect. A considerable number of new plants have been introduced, and many thousands of seeds sown in the garden within the few years since his appointment to that office. Various improvements suggested by him have been already mentioned, and in addition to these, the employment of sand as a medium of conveying heat to the plants, instead of tan bark, bids fair to become a permanent improvement, as a means of producing a more equable diffusion of that heat; and at the same time causing a diminution of expense; both of them important desiderata in exotic gardening. The

little stove was altered for the above pur- 1820.
pose in the last year, and it succeeded so well during the late severe winter, that the great stove has been altered in the present year to the same plan.

By the deed of conveyance from Sir Hans Sloane, two thousand plants were required to be presented to the Royal Society, which has been long since fulfilled. A much larger number has been given than that condition demanded, but it is not easy to ascertain when this presentation ceased.

By an extract from the minutes of the Royal Society, furnished by William Thomas Brande, Esq. one of their Secretaries, it would appear that the last presentation of plants took place on the 17th February, 1774, being the 51st annual presentation, amounting in all to 2550 plants. It is perfectly certain that they were continued long subsequently to that time, but the delivery must either have taken place at irregular periods, or if otherwise, the minute books of the Society of Apotheca-

1820. ries have not regularly noticed them. The last presentation of fifty plants, mentioned in those minutes, is in October 1794, the last preceding that being in October 1791. The entries of former years appear to have been equally irregular.

As a subject intimately connected with this Garden, and equally intended to promote Botanick Knowledge; it may be proper briefly to notice the Herborizing Excursions carried on in the vicinity of London, for the purpose of collecting and demonstrating indigenous plants.

The first institution of Herborizing walks was in the year 1633, at which time only one was appointed in each year. They appear to have been established for the benefit of the younger Members of the Society, and of the Apprentices to Members in general. Since the first establishment the number has been increased to six excursions in each year. Five of these are attended by the Apprentices, and one of them, called the general Herborizing, is confined to the Members only.

This latter is not limited, like the others, to the immediate vicinity of the Metropolis, but is extended, at the discretion of the Demonstrator, to the distance of twenty or thirty miles, varying the districts for collecting plants in different years. By these means a very large collection, and a greater variety of plants are procured for exhibition. 1820.

In the present improved state of Medicine, and in the extended qualifications required to be found in the practising Apothecary, an acquaintance with indigenous Botany becomes an useful, and therefore a necessary appendage to a medical education; to which purpose the Herborizing excursions are admirably adapted. It is very honourable to the Apprentices to observe the alacrity with which they have, especially within the last few years, attended as pupils to the Botanick Demonstrator in these excursions, and the ardour which many of them discover for acquiring this knowledge.

It would be unpardonable here to omit

1820. a just tribute of respect to Mr. Thomas Wheeler, who has for upwards of forty years filled the office of Demonstrator with great ability and reputation.

In the knowledge of Practical Botany, and in the kind and familiar manner in which he communicates that knowledge to the Students he has been excelled by none of his predecessors, and probably equalled by few. For the truth of this eulogy it is only necessary to appeal to a great proportion of the present Members of the Society, who have at various times been his pupils; many of whom are good Botanists, and will readily acknowledge the advantages they have derived from his instruction.

It has been already observed that five of the Herborizing excursions are open to the Apprentices of every Member of the Society. The two first of them, held in the Spring of each year are attended by the Demonstrator and his pupils only, for whom, as they are occupied, from an early hour in the morning until the evening, a

suitable breakfast and dinner are provided 1820.
at the expense of the Society.

To the other Herborizings all the Members of the Society have access, and are expected to be present at the Exhibition of plants; after which the Society dine together at the charge of Stewards, chosen from the Members in rotation.

To these Exhibitions and Dinners, several Physicians and other professional men are generally invited as visitors. The frequent recurrence of these opportunities must among other good effects, have a happy tendency to promote friendship and social harmony in the several departments of Medical Science.

THE END.

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